

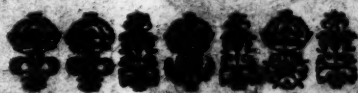
THE HUMBLE
PETITION

Of
The Major, Aldermen, and Commons of
the Citie of LONDON to His Majestie;

With His
MAJESTIES
GRACIOUS
ANSWER

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

thereunto



LONDON,

Printed for HENRY TURKEY. 1643.

Published by His MAJESTIES Command.

THE HAMBLE
PETITION

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commoners of
the City of London, in Petition to Your Majesty;



LONDON,

Printed for Henry Turker. 1744

Published by His Majesty's Command.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty,
The humble PETITION of the Major, Aldermen,
and Commons of the City of LONDON.

Sheweth,



That the Petitioners, Your Majesties most humble and Loyall Subjects, being much pierced with the long and great divisions between Your Majestie, and both Your Houses of Parliament; and with the sad and bloody effects thereof, both here and in Ireland, are yet more deeply wounded by the misapprehension which Your Majestie seemeth to entertain of the Love and Loyalty of this Your City, as if there were some Cause of feare, or suspicion of danger to Your Royall Person, if Your Majesty should returne hither; and that this is made the unhappy Barre to that blessed Reconciliation with Your great and most faithfull Councell, for preventing that desolation and destruction which is now most apparently imminent to your Majesty and all Your Kingdoms.

For satisfaction therefore of Your Majesty, and clearing of the Petitioners Innocency, they most humbly declare, (as for merly they have done) That they are no way conscious of any Disloyalty, but abhorre all thoughts thereof; and that they are resolved to make good their late solemn Protestation and sacred vow, made to Almighty God, and with the last drop of their dearest Blood, to defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, and according to the duty of their Allegiance, Your Majesties Royall Person, Honour and Estate, (whatsoever is maliciously and falsely suggested to your Majesty to the contrary) as well as the Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject; and doe hereby ingage themselves, and their Estates, and all they have to their uttermost Power, to defend and preserve Your Majesty and both Houses of Parliament from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence, with as much Loyalty, Love and Duty, as ever Citizens expressed towards Your Majesty, or any of Your Royall Progenitors, in their greatest Glory.

The Petitioners therefore, upon their bended Knees, do most humbly beseech Your Majestie to returne to Your Parliament (accompanied with Your Royall, not Martiall attendance;) to the end, that Religion, Laws, and Liberties may be settled and secured, and whatsoever is amiss in Church and Commonwealth, reformed by their Advice, according to the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdom: and that such a Peace

may thereby bee obtained, as shall bee for the glory of God, the Honour and Happinesse of Your Majesty and Posterity, and the safety and welfare of all Your Loyall Subjects, who (the Petitioners are fully assured, whatsoever is given out to the contrary,) doe unanimously desire the Peace herein expressed.

And the Petitioners shall ever pray, &c

M I C H E L L,

His Majesty hath gratioously considered this Petition,
and returnes this Answer.

THat His Majesty doth not entertaine any mis-apprehension of the love and Loyalty of his City of London. As he hath alwayes expressed a singular regard and esteem of the affections of that City, and is still desirous to make it his chief place of residence, and to continue and renew many marks of his favour to it, so he believes much the better and greater part of that his City is full of Love, Duty and Loyalty to his Majesty; and that the Tumults, which heretofore forced His Majesty for his safety to leave that place, though they were contrived and encouraged by some principall members thereof, (who are since well known, though they are above the reach of iustice) consisted more of desperate Persons of the Suburbs, and the neighbouring Towns, (who were misled too by the cunning and malice of their seducers,) then of the Inhabitants of that City. He lookes on his good Subjects there, as persons groining under the same burthen which doth oppress his Majestie, and awed by the same persons who began those Tumults, and the same Army which gave battell to his Majestie. And therefore as no good Subject can more desire from his soule a composure of the generall distractions, so no good Citizen can more desire the establishment of the particullar peace and prosperity of that place, by his Majesties access thereto, then his Majesty himself doth.

But his Majestie desires his good Subjects of London seriously to consider, what confidence his Majestie can have of security there, whilst the Laws of the Land are so notoriously despised and trampled under foot, and the whole government of that City (heretofore so famous over all the World) is now submitted to the Arbitrary Power of a few desperate persons of no Reputation, but for malice and disloyalty to him; Whilst armes are taken up not onely without, but against his content and expresse command, and Collections publikely made, and Contributions avowed for the maintenance of the Army which hath given him battell, and therein used all possible

fible meanes Treason and Mallice could suggest to them, to have taken His life from Him, and to have destroyed His Royall Issue; Whilest such of His Majesties Subjects, who out of duty and affection to his Majestie, and Compassion of their bleeding Country, have laboured for Peace, are reviled, injured and murdered, even by the Magistrates of that City, or by their directions; Lastly, what hope his Majesty can have of safety there, whilest Alderman *Pennington* their pretended Lord Major, (the principall Author of those Calamities, which so neerly threaten the Ruine of that famous City, *Ven, Fulke*, and *Mainwaring* (all Persons notoriously guilty of Schisme, and high-Treason,) commit such outrages in oppressing, robbing and imprisoning, according to their Discretion, all such his Majesties loving Subjects, whom they are pleased to suspect but for wishing well to His Majesty. And His Majesty would know whether the Petitioners beleve, that the reviling and suppressing the Book of Common Prayer, (established in this Church ever since the Reformation,) the discourtenacing and imprisoning Godly, Learned, and painfull Preachers, and the cherishing and countenancing of Brownists, Anabaptists, and all manner of Sectaries, be the way to defend, and maintain the true, reformed Protestant Religion? That to comply with and assist persons, who have actually attempted to kill His Majesty, and to allow and favour Libels, Pasquils, and seditious Sermons against his Majesty, be to defend His Royall Person and Honour, according to the duty of their Allegiance? Whether to imprison mens persons, and to plunder their houses, because they will not rebell against his Majestie, nor assist those that do? Whether to destroy their Property by taking away the twentieth part of their Estates from them, and by the same Arbitrary Power to referre to four standers by of their own faction, to judge what that Twentieth part is, be to defend the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject? And if they think these Actions to be instances of either; whether they doe not know the persons before named to be guilty of them all? Or whether they think it possible, that Almighty God can blesse that City, and preserve it from destruction, whilest persons of such known guilt and wickednesse are defended and justified amongst them, against the power of that Law, by which they can only subsist.

His Majestie is so farre from suffering himselfe to be incensed against the whole City, by the actions of these ill men, though they have hitherto been so prevalent as to make the Affections of the rest of little use to Him, and is so willing to be with them, and to protect them, that the Trade, Wealth, and Glory thereof (so decayed and Eclipsed by these publike Distractions) may again be the Envie of all forraign Nations, That he doth once more graciously

offer them a free and generall Pardon to all the Inhabitants of that His City of London, the Suburbs, and City of Westminster, (except the Persons formerly excepted by His Majesty,) if they shall yet resume to their Duty, Loyalty and Obedience. And if His good Subjects of that His City of London, shall first solemnly declare, That they will defend the known Lawes of the Land, and will submit to and be governed by no other Rule, if they shall first manifest, by defending themselves, and maintaining their own Rights, Liberties and Interests, and suppressing and force any violence unlawfully raised against those and His Majesty, their Power to defend and preserve Him from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence; Lastly, if they shall apprehend and commit to safe Custody all the Persons of those four men, who enrich themselves by the spoile and oppression of His loving Subjects, and the ruine of the City, that His Majesty may proceed against them by the course of Law, as guilty of high Treason; His Majesty will speedily returne to them with His Royall, and without His Majesties Attendance, and (with use His utmost endeavour, that they may hereafter enjoy all the Blessings of Peace and Plenty, and will no longer expect obedience from them, then he shall, with all the faculties of His Soule, labour in the preserving and advancing the true, reformed, Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and Propriety of the Subject, and the just Priviledges of Parliament.

If notwithstanding all this, the Ait and interest of these men can prevaile so farre, that they involve more men in their guilt, and draw that His City to sacrifice it's present Happinesse, and future Hopes to their Pride, Fury, and Malice, His Majesty shall onely give them this Warning, That whosoever shall henceforward, take up Arms without his consent, contribute any Mony or Plate, upon what pretence of Authority soever, for maintenance of the Army under the Command of the Earle of Essex, or any other Army in Rebellion against Him, or shall pay Tonnage and Poundage, till the same shall be settled by Act of Parliament; Every such Person must expect the severe punishment the Law can inflict; and in the meane time his Majesty shall seize upon any part of his Estate within His Power, for the relief and support of him and His Army rais'd and maintain'd for the Defence of His Person, the Lawes, and this His Kingdome; And since he denyes to His Majesty the duty and benefit of his subjection, by giving assistance to Rebels, which by the known Lawes of the Land is high treason, His Majesty shall likewise deny him the benefit of his Protection, and shall not only signify to all His Forraigne Ministers, that such Person shall receive no advantage by being His Subject, but shall by all other wayes and means proceed against him as a publike Enemy to his Majesty, and this Kingdome.

But

But His Majesty hopes and doubts not, but his good Subjects of *London* will call to minde the Acts of their Predecessors, their Duty, Affection, Loyalty and merit towards their Princes, the Renown they have had with all posterity for, and the Blessing of Heaven which alwayes accompanied those virtues, and will consider the perpetual scorne and infamy, which unavoidably will follow them and their children, if infinitely the meaner part in quality, and much the lesser part in number, shall be able to alter the Government so admirably established, destroy the Trade so excellently settled, and to waste the wealth so industriously gotten, of that flourishing City; And then they will easily gather up the Courage and Resolution to joyn with His Majesty in Defence of that Religion, Law and Liberty, which hitherto hath and only can make themselves, His Majesty, and his Kingdom happy.

For concurring with the Advice of His Two Houses of Parliament, which with Reference to the Common-wealth may be as well at this distance, as by being at *White-hall*, His Majesty doubts not but his good Subjects of *London*, well know how farre (beyond the example of His Predecessors) His Majesty hath concurred with their advice, in passing of such Lawes, by which He willingly parted with many of His known Rights, for the benefit of His Subjects, which the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdom did not

oblige him to consent unto, and hath used all possible meanes to

beget a right understanding between them; And will

therefore apply themselves to those, who

by making Just, Peaceable and Ho-

nourable Propositions to His

Majesty can only beget

that concurrence.

(* * *)

FINIS.